Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as shown below without prejudice.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

at a VoIP retail service provider system, in response to receiving call signaling data from an originating Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network endpoint requesting to initiate a VoIP call, selecting a call signaling and media proxy in a managed wholesale VoIP network through which to route media packets associated with the VoIP call;

performing Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) routing in the managed wholesale VoIP network, wherein the routing includes forcing the media packets associated with the VoIP call through one or more managed network elements of a specific Internet Protocol (IP) address with the selected call signaling and media proxy.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising ending the VoIP call after a media stream from a network element is complete and after a media stream from the originating VoIP endpoint is complete.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the media packets comply with RTP.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the call signaling information from the originating VoIP network endpoint.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein forcing further comprises relaying the call signaling information through the call signaling and media proxy to a destination VoIP network element.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein forcing further comprises directing the originating VoIP network endpoint to use the selected call signaling and media proxy.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein forcing further comprises streaming the packets to the call signaling and media proxy in a selected media proxy server.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein forcing further comprises replacing an Internet Protocol address of the selected call signaling and media proxy with an address of a next hop in the network.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein replacing comprises using Network Address Translation (NAT).

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the next hop comprises a terminating VoIP network endpoint.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the selected call signaling and media proxy includes a list of static virtual Internet Protocol addresses that represent media network endpoints, gateways and other media proxies.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the selected call signaling and media proxy includes a list of dynamic virtual IP addresses that represent media network endpoints, gateways and other media proxies.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein Network Address Translation (NAT) hides the terminating VoIP network endpoint from a call originator.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein Network Address Translation (NAT) hides an originating VoIP network endpoint address from a terminating VoIP network endpoint address.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein selecting a call signaling and media proxy comprises selecting a call signaling and media proxy server from a plurality of call signaling and media proxy servers that provide a predetermined quality of service.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein selecting comprises testing a quality of a network connection from the originating VoIP network endpoint point of presence (POP) to each of the call signaling and media proxy servers.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein testing comprises using a series of pings to determine a closest call signaling and media proxy server.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein testing comprises using trace routes to determine a closest call signaling and media proxy server.

19. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving at a VoIP retail service provider system call signaling information from an originating Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) endpoint, wherein the call signaling information is associated with a request to initiate a VoIP call;

selecting, by the VoIP retail service provider system, a call signaling and RTP media proxy from among a plurality of RTP media proxies in a managed wholesale VoIP network through which to route media associated with the VoIP call;

relaying the call signaling information to a destination VoIP endpoint;

directing, by the VoIP retail service provider system, the originating VoIP endpoint to use the selected call signaling and RTP media proxy within the managed wholesale VoIP network; and

receiving a stream of media to the selected call signaling and RTP media proxy from the originating VoIP endpoint.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein directing comprises:

determining an address of the destination VoIP endpoint; and

obtaining virtual addresses from the RTP media proxy.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the virtual addresses represent media endpoints, gateways, PC clients, application servers and other media proxies.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling RTP routing in a managed wholesale VoIP network comprising:

sending, by a retail VoIP service provider system, call signaling information from an originating VoIP endpoint to a call signaling and media proxy to initiate a VoIP call, wherein the call signaling and media proxy is selected from a plurality of call signaling and media proxies in the managed wholesale VoIP network;

relaying the call signaling information from the call signaling and media proxy to a destination VoIP endpoint;

receiving instructions instructing the retail VoIP service provider system to send media associated with the VoIP call from the originating VoIP endpoint to the call signaling and media proxy; and

sending from the retail VoIP service provider system a stream of media from the originating VoIP endpoint to the call signaling and media proxy.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the call signaling and media proxy comprises virtual IP addresses of media endpoints, media gateways and other call signaling and media proxies.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the call signaling and media proxy comprises dynamic IP addresses of media endpoints, media gateways and other call signaling and media proxies.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the call signaling and media proxy comprises static IP addresses of media endpoints, media gateways and other call signaling and media proxies.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising replacing an IP address of the call signaling media proxy with an IP address of a next hop endpoint.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein replaying comprises network address translation (NAT).

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the retail VoIP service provider system is directly connected to one or more call signaling and media proxies that serve an individual terminating partner VoIP service provider from within the managed wholesale VoIP network, and wherein performing VoIP routing comprises directly routing the call to a selected one of the call signaling and media proxies.

31. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising advertising, by an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to the ISP's network, IP addresses of a group of call signaling and media proxies in the managed wholesale VoIP network, to form a connection between the ISP and the managed wholesale VoIP network that can be used by the ISP for VoIP traffic only.